REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-15 and 17-18 are amended and new claims 19-25 are added. Various amendments are made to the claims for clarity, and are unrelated to issues of patentability.

The Office Action objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it contains undefined abbreviations and/or acronyms. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments to the Abstract obviate the grounds for objection. For example, the Abstract has been amended to recite network elements (NEs) and an Element Management System (EMS). Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments obviate the grounds for rejection. In particular, while the preambles may recite database synchronization, the applicant is not required under Patent Office rules to recite data synchronization within the body of the claims. However, in order to further prosecution, applicant has added new dependent claims 19 and 20 related to synchronizing. For example, independent claim 1 is clear regarding a common memory storing current status information as well as a sync-related memory storing previous status information. Applicant has further revised the claims for clarity. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) by U.S. Patent 5,761,647 to Boushy. The Office Action also rejects claims 7-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Boushy. The rejections are respectfully traversed with respect to the pending claims.

Independent claim 1 recites at least one or more network elements which compare block units of information in a common memory storing current status information and information in a sync-related memory storing previous status information. The at least one or more network elements transmitting data results of the comparison. Independent claim 1 further recites a network element management system which stores the data results transmitted from the network elements for thereby monitoring and managing the network elements in real time.

Boushy does not teach or suggest at least these features of independent claim 1. That is, Boushy has no suggestion for comparing block units of information in a common memory (storing current status information) and information in a sync-related memory (storing previous status information). The Office Action states that Boushy's local centralized management list corresponds to the claimed common memory and Boushy's local LMS correspond to the claimed sync-related memory. However, Boushy does not teach or suggest features relating to comparing block units of information in a common memory and information in a sync-related memory.

Independent claim 1 further recites that the at least one or more network elements transmitting data results of the comparison and that the network element management system stores the data results transmitted from the network elements. Boushy does not teach or suggest

14

features relating to transmitting data results of a comparison (between information in a common memory and a synch-related memory). Rather, Boushy merely describes that periodic data may be transmitted towards a central location. This is not transmitting data results of a comparison between a common memory and a sync-related memory as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 8 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. More specifically, independent claim 8 recites comparing block units of information in a common memory which reflects database information of the network elements with block units of information in a sync-related memory which stores data prior to a certain period. Independent claim 8 also recites transmitting only modified block data, as a result of the comparison, to the network element management system, and storing the transmitted data in the memory of the network element. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Boushby does not teach or suggest at least these features. Thus, independent claim 8 defines patentable subject matter.

Independent claim 21 defines patentable subject matter for at least similar reasons. That is, independent claim 21 recites comparing blocks of information in a common memory of a network element with blocks of information in a sync-related memory of the network element, transmitting data from the network element to a management system based on the comparison, and storing the transmitted information in the management system. For at least similar reasons as set forth above, Boushby does not teach or suggest these features.
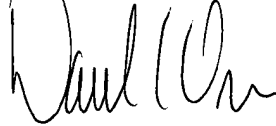
15

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 8 and 21 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 and 19 depend from claim 1, claims 9-18 and 20 depend from claim 8 and claims 22-25 depend from claim 21 and therefore define patentable subject matter at least for these reasons. In addition, the dependent claims also recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied reference.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claim 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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